

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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R 091328Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4534

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

SUDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

CINCUSAFE/IN

CINCUSAFE/INCFR

HQ USEUCOM

CINCUSAREUR

COMSIXTHFLT

FOSIF ROTA

UNCLAS ANKARA 6099

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF THE AEGEAN DISPUTE

1. THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE AND THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE TURKISH SEISMIC EXPLORATION SHIP SISMIC CONTINUE AS
MAJOR ITEMS IN THE TURKISH PRESS.

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2. PRIMIN DEMIREL TOLD REPORTES AUGUST 6 THAT THE SECOND

PHASE OF THE SISMİK'S OPERATIONS WOULD CONTINUE FOR TEN DAYS AND COVER A DISTANCE OF 600 KILOMETERS. HE SAID THAT THE SHIP WOULD BE REFUELED IN IZMİR AND WOULD THEN BEGIN PHASE THREE.

3. THE GREEK PROTEST AND IN PARTICULAR, THE GÖT'S REJECTION OF IT DOMINATED FRONT PAGES OF MANY AUGUST 8 AND 9 TURKISH PAPERS. ALSO FEATURED WAS THE CLAIM THAT THE GREEK ARMY WAS IN A STATE OF ALERT AS WELL AS GREEK OPPOSITION "LEADER" PAPANDREOU'S URGING OF THE GÖG TO SINK THE SISMİK IF IT ENTERED DISPUTED WATERS.

4. REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) DEPUTY ECEN HASAN ESAT İSİK CONTINUED TO KEEP THE SISMİK A SUBJECT OF DOMESTIC DISPUTE BY STATING AUGUST 7 THAT IT WAS "NOT SURPRISING THAT GREECE SHOULD HAVE THE AUDACITY TO GIVE SUCH A NOTE IN THE FACE OF A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS PERSISTENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT THE GÖT'S (SISMİK) RESEARCH DID NOT DENOTE A SOVEREIGNTY RIGHT." THE FOLLOWING DAY, İSİK AGAIN LAMBASTED THE DEMİREL GOVERNMENT AND CALLED ON IT TO "UNILATERALLY ESTABLISH AND DECLARE" THE LIMITS OF THE TURKISH AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF. RETURNING TO HIS FAVORITE THEME, İSİK STATED THAT "THE GREEK GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE MADE THE PROTEST IN THE COMFORT OF HAVING DIAGNOSED THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS IN A STATE OF PANIC OVER THE AEGEAN PROBLEM AND HAD NO OTHER AIM BUT TO SAVE APPEARANCES."

5. THE TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION (TRT) RADIO BROADCAST AT 1300 HOURS LOCAL AUGUST 9 ANNOUNCED THAT GÖG INFORMATION MINISTER LAMBRIAS HAD TOLD A TRT REPORTER WHO TELEPHONED HIM FROM ANKARA THAT THE GÖG WOULD ANNOUNCE THIS EVENING WHETHER IT WOULD TAKE THE AEGEAN PROBLEM TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. TRT ALSO REPORTED THAT LAMBRIAS CONFIRMED THAT THE GREEK ARMED FORCES WERE IN A STATE OF GENERAL ALERT. MACOMBER

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